

# soundbites

HI-FI WORLD

## ORIGIN LIVE LINEAR FLOW 2 SPEAKER CABLE £30/M

Speaker cables are critical in the hi-fi chain. If this often ignored area is not right then it can cause a crippling information bottleneck that can falsely skew how you view your entire hi-fi. On the other hand, there are plenty of top performing cables out there which fetch an absolute fortune. Striking a balance therefore, between value and top quality sound is a tough call. Origin Live has tried to blend both aims into its Linear Flow 2 design. Looking at these flexible lengths of wire, they look unassuming, with nothing particularly macho about them. They do feature Litz cabling technology however: multiple wires, individually insulated to prevent the audio signal jumping from wire to wire, adding distortion.

When you buy the Linear Flow 2s, Origin Live will charge £30 per cable for an 'ending' fee. This is where each cable wire end is coated with tin (at 450°C). You can also request banana plugs to end each cable (which costs another £30 on top of the ending fee) but Origin Live doesn't recommend it, stating that the tin ending is a superior conductor.

To test the Linear Flow 2s, I compared them with a set of Chord Epic Twins (£37 per metre). In comparison to the OLs, the Epic Twins sounded slower. Playing a range of vinyl-based female vocal jazz, the Epics showed a good upper midrange performance but the treble lacked life and pace was slower. The Linear Flow 2s on the other hand, displayed more energy and verve. Bass showed greater punch while the upper mids

provided more attack during, for example an acoustic guitar strum while treble-based cymbal work had an altogether lighter and more metallic ring. Listening to the Linear Flow 2s for an extended period across varying additional musical genres, these cables showed more clarity with added depth to vocals. Offering excellent sound quality for a very reasonable price, the Origin Live Linear Flow 2s will provide the basis for a top drawer hi-fi system. **PR**



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